

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 ACDA-19 /164 W

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R 222309Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3708

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4697

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, MOPS, XO, AS, TH

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN POSITION ON USE OF COCOS BY US RECONNAISSANCE
FLIGHTS

REF: (A) BANGKOK 11743; (B) CANBERRA 4655 (NOTAL);
(C) CANBERRA 4527 (NOTAL)

1. AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS NOT ISSUED ANY
STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO FOREIGN MILITARY AIRCRAFT USE OF COCOS
ISLANDS. TEXT CONTAINED PARA 1, REF A, IS SAME AS THAT REFERRED
TO PARA 4, REF C WHICH WAS USED BY DFA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER IN
ORAL CONVERSATION WITH AUSTRALIAN JOURNALIST. IN CONVERSATION
WITH THIS OFFICER JULY 22, EMBOFF WAS INFORMED THAT NO STATEMENT
ON THIS SUBJECT IS EXPECTED TO BE ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
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AFFAIRS.

2. DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS, HOWEVER, PREPARING RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION ON NOTICE AS REPORTED REF B. EMBASSY HAS BEEN PROMISED TEXT OF PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT WHEN IT IS ISSUED.

3. COMMENT: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT GOA WOULD BE AMENABLE TO PRESENTING ITS OWN VIEWS ON MILITARY USE OF COCOS AROUND PERIMETER OF INDIAN OCEAN AS SUGGESTED PARA 3, REF A. AS REPORTED REF B, OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDEN HAS TONED DOWN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR GOVERNMENT TO DEFEND CONTINUED AGREEMENT TO US MILITARY USE OF COCOS AIRFIELD. THIS IS OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO GIVE GOVERNMENT EASY OUT SO IT WILL NOT BE PUT IN POSITION OF HAVING PUBLICLY TO DEFEND ITS POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE BELIEVE IT IS IN USG'S INTEREST TO ALLOW GOA TO HANDLE COCOS MILITARY USE AS SEPARATE SUBJECT AND NOT ATTEMPT LINK IT WITH IOZP PROPOSAL.
HARROP

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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